

Applic. No.: 08/930,735
Amdt. Dated December 23, 2003
Reply to Office action of October 16, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

) Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-9 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 8-9 have been amended. Claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled.

In the section entitled "Claim Objections" on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claim 9 has been objected to because of an informality. Appropriate correction has been made.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 3-6 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Jensen (US Pat. No. 4,042,278) in view of Monti et al. (US Pat. No. 4,617,691) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

) The rejection has been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, the feature of claim 7 has been added to claim 1. Since claim 7 contains allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner in the section entitled "Allowable Subject Matter" on page 3 of the Office action, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Since claims

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) 3-6 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the section entitled "Allowable Subject Matter" on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 7 has been added to claim 1. Claims 8-9 have been written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-6, and 8-9 are solicited.

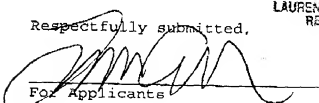
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition
) for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

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If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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For Applicants

YC:cgm

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